INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 May 1952

SUBJECT Construction of a Brown Coal Coking Plant and Production of Foundry Coke from Crude Brown Coal in Lauchhammer-West

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. The Planning Office of the Abteilung Kohleveredlung (coal processing department) of the Main Administration for Coal in Berlin-Weissensee supervised the construction of the central coking plant in Lauchhammer-West (M 52/A 13) which is scheduled to produce brown coal hard coke. The Abteilung Kohleveredlung is headed by Dr. Thomas (fnu), who is also the specialist in charge of the Central Coking Plant in Lauchhammer-West.

2. In December 1951 about 700 workers were employed on the construction of this plant. The construction of the Central Coking Plant is scheduled to be completed by mid-1952.

3. The capacity of the central coking plant is scheduled to be 1,000,000 tons in 1952 and to be increased to 1,700,000 tons by 1953. The 1952 schedule calls for the production of 630,000 tons of brown coal hard coke and 30,000 tons of brown coal tar and heating gas from 1,000,000 tons of brown coal. (1)

4. The brown coal tar produced allegedly can scarcely be used, as it consists of about 35 percent hard asphalt and 6 to 7 percent foreign substances. However, the AK-gasoline (sic), yielded during the coking process, is valuable and contains about 60 percent aromatic substances. The production of this gasoline will considerably help to reduce the imports of benzol into the Soviet Zone of Germany which, to date, amounted to about 40,000 tons per year. Considering the unfavorable composition of the brown coal tar it is doubtful whether it can be distilled in a continuous pipe still. It is feared that the high content of asphalt and foreign substances will lead to a rapid coal incrustation of the pipes (Verkohlen der Rohren). It is therefore planned to separate the light, medium and lubricating oils by a fractionation process during the coking process itself. However, the method to be used has not yet been determined. (2)

5. In 1952, the heating gas produced must be burnt because the necessary installations for handling this gas do not yet exist. Beginning with 1953, this gas will be used for the long distance gas supply (Ferngasversorgung) and as synthetic gas for the production of gasoline in the SAG Synthesis Plant in Schwarzheide (M 52/A 33). Before being used, the heating gas must be desulphurized. The average sulphur content of the

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gas is 2.5 percent. Since bauxite is not available for the desulphurization, it is planned to use either roasted pyrites from the production of sulphuric acid, or iron oxide mud which can be abundantly supplied by the Mine Heide No 3. (3)

6. An installation for the production of phenol from brown coal tar is scheduled to be built. This installation will have an annual capacity of 1,700 tons of crude phenol. It is planned to start operation by 1 August 1952.

7. In January 1952, an experimental installation started operation in Delitsch (M 52/E 13). It was scheduled to produce foundry coke from crude brown coal supplied from the Geiseltal. This crude brown coal is especially fine-grained and has a low ash and sulphur content. The foundry coke produced in the Delitsch experimental installation meets the necessary requirements.

8. The foundry coke processed from crude brown coal in the Lauchhammer-West Plant is scheduled to be used in the Eisenhuettenkombinat Ost (EKO) (Ironworks Combine East) in Fuerstenberg/Oder (M 54/U 52) and in the Eisenwerk West (EWW) (Ironworks West) in Calbe/Saale (M 52/D 77). (4)

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

(1) The 1,000,000 ton capacity scheduled for 1952 was previously reported.
25X1 [redacted]. However, according to the previous report, the 1952 production of brown coal tar was scheduled to be 60,000 tons, rather than 30,000 tons. Under the 1952 Economic Plan, the Soviet Zone Government expects the 1952 production of brown coal hard coke to be only about 150,000 tons. According to the same plan, the capacity of the brown coal coking plant is scheduled to be expanded to only 1,300,000 tons, and not to 1,700,000 tons in 1953.

(2) The AK-gasoline has a high octane rating because of the high percentage of aromatic hydrocarbons. This gasoline, therefore, does not require the addition of benzol as would gasolines with a low octane rating. The AK-gasoline can also be used as a substitute for benzol to increase the octane rating of inferior gasolines.

(3) This mine is probably the Heide Mine of the Welzow Brown Coal Administration in Niednitz (Oberlausitz) (M 52/A 32).

(4) The EWW has been reported to use only brown coal hard coke, while the EKO has been supplied with foundry coke from Upper Silesia.